



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/998,661  
Applicant : T. C. MCNEEL et al.  
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**AMENDMENT**

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Director of the United States Patent  
and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed November 6, 2003, kindly enter the following remarks.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 2 of this paper.